



# Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Planning Newsletter

December, 1999

## Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Open Houses Held



In September, we held four open houses that introduced the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands master planning process. The purpose of the open houses was to introduce the properties involved, describe the public involvement process, allow staff and interested parties to meet, and to identify issues that should be addressed during this planning process. Approximately 95 people representing a range of interests attended these open houses.

In addition to the open houses, we sent a mailing to a list of over 260 potentially interested people. Included in that mailing was an Issues Questionnaire, which asked for information about which properties people visit, the types of activities they

do, and issues or concerns that they would like to see addressed in this process. Following is a general summary of comments received from Issues Questionnaires and comments at the open houses. This summary is intended to give you a flavor of the issues heard.

Several themes developed upon reviewing comments. These themes include, but are not limited to:

- increasing, preserving, and protecting public ownership along the Wolf River,
- managing and enhancing our natural resources along the Wolf River,
- increasing educational opportunities on the properties (e.g. brochures, programs, maps, and signs),
- providing adequate

public access to properties,

- maintaining existing snowmobile trails,
- wildlife management and use of the properties,
- and a few concerns regarding fisheries and forestry management.

Some issues we heard such as T-zone deer management, boating traffic issues, and concerns of use and management on other rivers (i.e. Embarrass, Little Wolf River, Leer Creek) or non-DNR owned properties are issues that are beyond the scope of this project. Currently, we are only able to address management and use of the DNR owned properties (see inside map) included in the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands.

(continued on

### Inside this issue:

Open House continued Pg. 2

The Next Steps Pg. 2

Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Proposed Study Pg. 2

Proposed Study Area Map Pg. 3

The Cardinal Flower Pg. 4



September 16, 1999 Open House at Mosquito Hill Nature Center in New London



### You Can Participate

To be added to the mailing list or for more information contact:

Jill Mrotek

Planning Team Leader

WDNR

PO Box 10448

1125 N. Military Ave.

Green Bay, WI 54307-0448

Email: mrotej@dnr.state.wi.us

Phone: 920/492-5830

---

## Open Houses (continued)

---

As part of an effective public involvement process, we need to look at which issues can and should be addressed now before proceeding further along with the planning process. Increasing public ownership along the Wolf River is an issue that can and should be addressed now. Identifying any potential boundary expansions or new acquisitions early in the process

will help in the future planning discussions. For example, when we begin to identify a vision, goals, and objectives for the properties it will be important to know the extent of area involved.

With public and Natural Resources Board (NRB) interest (the NRB is the policy making body for the

DNR), the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands planning team would like to look at a study area which would be used to determine the feasibility of future department acquisitions or boundary expansions. The study area is just a starting point. Any future boundary lines, property expansions, etc. would come in collaboration with you and other interested parties.

---

## The Next Steps

---

In January we will take the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Proposed Study Area (see below for description and adjacent page for map) to the Natural Resources Board for approval of the study area.

The Natural Resources Board (NRB) sets policy for the Department of Natural Resources and exercises authority and responsibility in ac-

cordance with governing statutory provisions. The seven board members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the State Senate.

We will continue to put together background information on the properties, complete inventories, and provide public involvement opportunities. As part of that proc-

"Tell me I forget, teach me I remember, involve me I learn."

- Ben Franklin

ess, we would like to hear from you if you have any comments, opinions, suggestions, or concerns regarding a proposed study area for the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands. Please contact **Jill Mrotek, Planning Team Leader, at 920/492-5830 or email [mrotej@dnr.state](mailto:mrotej@dnr.state)**.

---

## The Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Proposed Study Area

---

The Lower Wolf River Bottomlands planning team determined that using township lines would be clearer than other types of landmarks (i.e. roads). In addition, we used the following criteria to determine which townships would be included in the study area (see map). These criteria are:

- the Wolf River runs through the township,
- there are DNR properties or ownership within the township, and
- the township has a confluence where a tributary feeds into the Wolf River (i.e. Maple Creek, the Embarrass River meets the Wolf River).

within this study area is to determine whether it is feasible for the DNR to establish, develop and manage any new properties, or to make any significant changes to existing property boundaries. Our evaluation will take into account the physical and biological environment, the opinions of the public including area landowners, and the availability for funding and staff to adequately accomplish the project goal.

Many of these same steps are taken

---

### Did you know...

*That within the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands, Deer Creek and Maine Wildlife Areas were the first properties to be acquired by the state in 1942.*

---

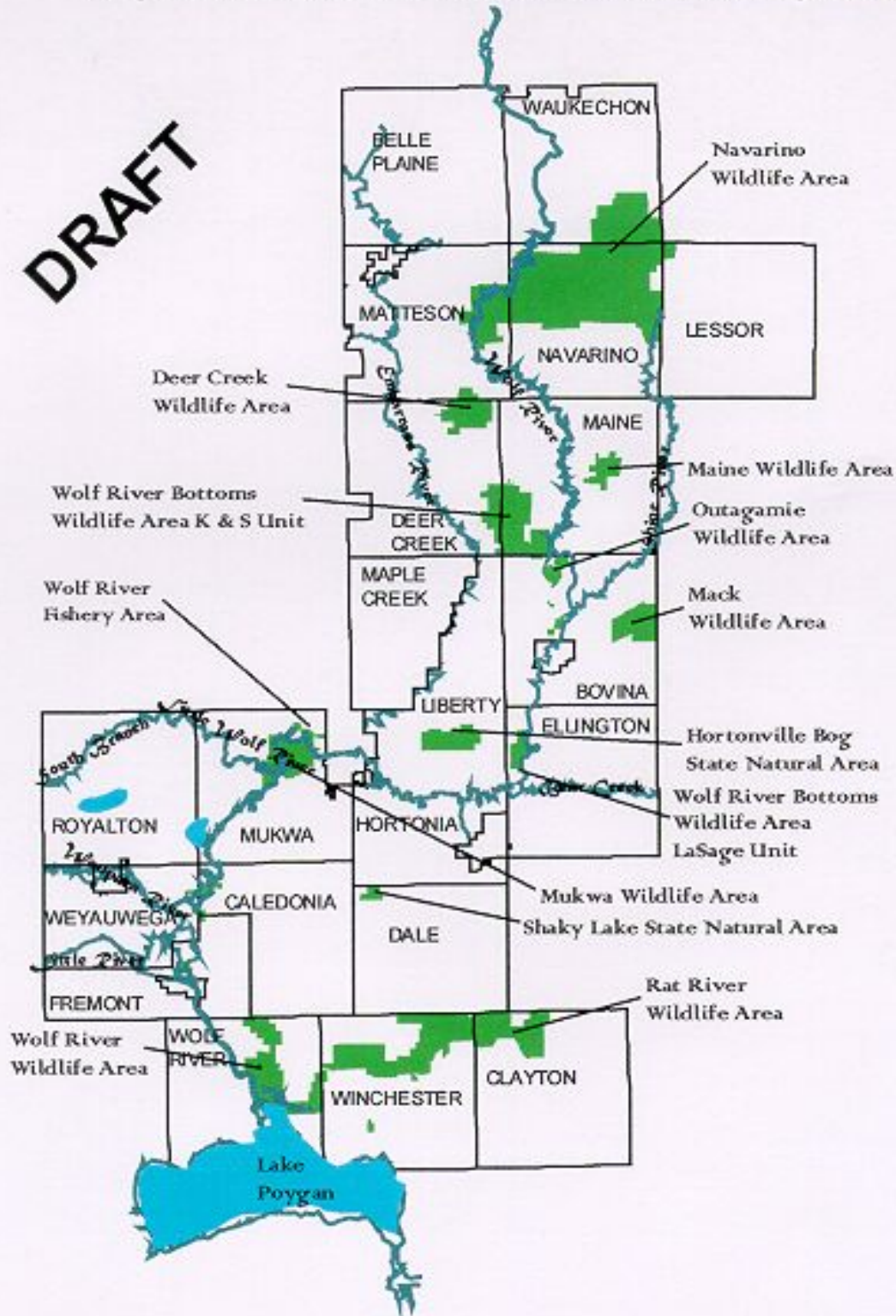
What we are trying to accomplish

in a master planning process for the property/properties involved. The purpose of a master plan is to describe how a property will be managed, used, and developed. A master plan is limited in its ability to acquire land outside the existing property boundary. By looking early on at a larger area to include in the planning process we give ourselves more flexibility and options for the future.

In the next several months, the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands planning team intends to continue in master planning for the properties, but also to prepare a feasibility study for the designated study area. We hope that you will continue to support and participate in this process.

# Proposed Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Study Area

**DRAFT**



 Townships  
 Major Wolf River Tributaries  
 DNR Project Boundaries

0 3 6 Miles

1:500,000

Map provided by WDNR Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater 10-14-89.





Wisconsin Department of  
Natural Resources  
1125 N. Military Ave.  
Green Bay, WI 54307

## The Cardinal Flower

---

The cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) is found along the banks and in the floodplain of the Wolf River. The cardinal flower is a member of the Lobelia family. It's a distant cousin of the cultivated lobelias that you plant in your flower gardens and hanging baskets. The name cardinal flower is taken from its supposed resemblance in color to the famous hat worn by the Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church. The plant is a herbaceous perennial native to the eastern, southern and central United States. It grows best in moist, rich soils with full sun. The plant has a rosette of basal leaves, which does not tolerate being completely covered by leaves or mulch during the winter. The rosettes need winter light to survive. The flower spike develops in

summer and is anywhere from 2 to 4 feet tall. Hummingbirds are attracted to the bright red flowers and are important for pollination of the flowers. In autumn a capsule containing innumerable seeds, among the smallest of any native wildflower replaces each pollinated flower. The Cherokee, Iroquois and Pawnee used the cardinal flower for diverse purposes, from snuffing the cold infusion to curing nosebleeds, to making a love charm from the roots. The cardinal flower is certainly one of the brightest treasures along the Wolf River and is a welcome flash of red in the lush summer vegetation of the bottomland forest.

